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## **CLAIMS**

1. (Amended) A washer wherein antimicrobial metal ions can be added in to water and attached to a surface of laundry in a predetermined process in a laundry washing session,

wherein a time of the predetermined process is longer when metal ions are added than when no metal ions are added.

- 2. The washer according to claim 1,
- wherein metal ions can be added into water being fed during "rinsing with pouring water."
  - 3. (Amended) A washer wherein antimicrobial metal ions can be added in to water and attached to a surface of laundry in a predetermined process in a laundry washing session,

wherein the predetermined process includes a powerful swirl period and a mild swirl period or a powerful swirl period and a still period.

- 4. The washer according to claim 3,
- wherein a ratio of powerful swirl period and mild swirl period or a ratio of powerful swirl period and still period is constant, regardless of a volume of water in a washing tub and/or an amount of laundry.

wherein a ratio of powerful swirl period and mild swirl period or a ratio of

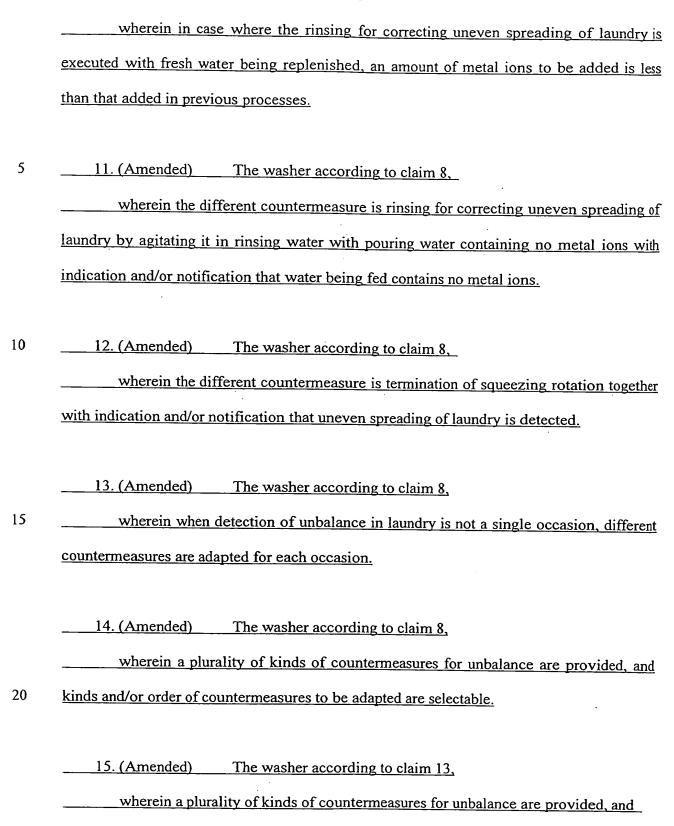
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5. The washer according to claim 3,

	powerful swirl period and still period varies in accordance with a volume of water in a
	washing tub and/or an amount of laundry.
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	6. (Amended) The washer according to claim 3,
	wherein the water into which the metal ions have been added is agitated by mild
	swirl or placed at a standstill after said water is agitated by powerful swirl for a
	predetermined period.
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	7. (Amended) The washer according to claim 6,
	wherein the predetermined process is a final rinsing process.
	8. (Amended) A washer wherein antimicrobial metal ions can be added in to
15	water in a predetermined process in a laundry washing session,
	wherein when uneven spreading of laundry is detected during squeezing rotation
	of a washing tub after addition of metal ions, a countermeasure to be adapted is different
	from that when uneven spreading of laundry is detected while no metal ions are added.
20	9. (Amended) The washer according to claim 8,
	wherein the different countermeasure is rinsing for correcting uneven spreading of
	laundry by agitating it in water containing metal ions.
	10. (Amended) The washer according to claim 9.

[Amended Sheet (PCT Article 34)]

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the kinds and/or order of countermeasures to be adapted are selectable.

	16. (Added) The washer according to one of claims 1 through 15,
	wherein metal ions are generated by using an ion elution unit that elutes metal ions
5	by applying a voltage between electrodes.